

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PROTAS and Covenant Kids will meet this evening, December 3, and next Sunday evening, December 10. Adult classes will resume January 14.**

**Advent and Christmas at APC!** Join us for these special services as we await the dawn of Christ's coming:

**Advent Services:** Sundays, December 3, 10, 17 at 9am and 11am; December 24 at 10am  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** Sunday, December 24 at 5pm

**Light Shattering Darkness: Lessons and Carols Service and Reception on Sunday, December 17 at 5pm.** Join us and invite a friend for a celebration of our Lord and Savior's birth. This service will show us the centrality of Jesus the Light of the World in every part of the gospel story, and will feature carol singing led by APC choirs and musicians. Nursery will be provided for children ages 4 and under. Join us after the service for a reception of Cocoa and Cookies in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring cookies to share for the reception!

**Carol singing at Lincolnian on December 23!** We invite you for a time of singing carols and passing out toiletry kits and artwork to the seniors on December 23 from 10:30-11:15am. **We are in need of someone to play keyboard for the time of carols.** Please email Phyllis Sergent at phyllis.sergent@gmail.com if you are able to help in this way.

Alternatively, feel free to schedule a visit simply to meet and chat with some of the seniors during this Advent season. This is a meaningful way to love and minister to them, and will be a blessing to all. Email Phyllis Sergent at phyllis.sergent@gmail.com to arrange your visit, or with any questions.

**We are collecting artwork and cards to give to the seniors!** Artwork and cards can be delivered in the designated box in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great way for children and teens to participate and show love to our seniors!

**Year-End gifts to APC.** As you plan a year-end gift to APC, keep in mind that the church office will be closed December 25-January 1, and the last worship service of the year is December 31. Gifts received in the mail the first week of January—if dated and postmarked in 2023—will be included in your 2023 year-end giving statement. You may also make your year-end gifts through APC's online giving portal thru December 31, 2023. In addition, if you would like to donate securities or stocks to APC's general fund, please contact Kathy Sens at kathy.sens@alexandriapres.org and she can give you the information needed to make a transfer. If you would like to donate a year end gift, simply indicate this on your check and mail it to the APC office. You may also make your donation online. Thank you for considering APC in your year-end planning.

**APC Deaconess Suggestions.** In April 2023, Session decided to begin a new Deaconess ministry at APC, appointing Godly women of the congregation to assist the Deacons in their ministry of mercy and administration. At this time, Session welcomes suggestions of female members who discern a call to such service. (It is a prerequisite that any woman suggested have previously completed APC's Spiritual Leadership class.) Suggestions will be received through December 10. Please confirm with the woman that she welcomes the suggestion, before submitting it to Session. Those women that Session appoints as Deaconess will be commissioned at the January 14 worship services. To suggest a deaconess, along with further information on the Deaconess ministry and APC's decision to begin this ministry, scan the QR code or see the APC email.

**Walking in the Spirit (WitS) begins January 14 from 5-7pm.** APC is offering a discipleship ministry called Walking in the Spirit (WitS), which will be led by Pastor Tom and Sharon Holliday. This is a 10 week in-depth study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit, which begins Sunday, January 14 and runs through March 24, with a break on February 18. The last week is a special banquet to end the course. Each class will consist of an hour of teaching followed by an hour of small group interaction, as well as reflection and homework during the week. Since each week builds upon the previous week, we ask that you commit to being present in at least 8 of the 10 weeks.

**Communicants Class for Children and Teens ~ January '24:** The class will be held on Thursdays from 5-6pm at APC and run for eight weeks starting January 18. Parents, please talk with your child/teen and consider whether or not you think they are ready to join the church as a communicant member. To find out more information, preview the workbook, or sign up; please contact Adam at adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org.

**Call to Prayer— January 2024.** As we embark on a New Year, the elders invite you to join them in APC-wide prayer opportunities: Sunday, January 7 at 5pm, Wednesday, January 10 at 7:30pm; and Saturday, January 13 at 9am.

**Newcomer Fellowship Dinner, Saturday, January 20, 6pm.** If you've been attending APC for one week or several months, please join us for food and fellowship. You'll have a chance to meet church officers and staff, ask questions, and learn more about the ministry God is building here.

**The next Inquirers Class is February 2 & 3.** If you are interested in membership or in gaining a deeper understanding of APC, we invite you to attend this class. You will receive an introduction to Christianity, the PCA, and the specific vision/mission and philosophy of ministry at APC. It's also a great opportunity to meet other newcomers to the church, as well as pastors and staff! Membership is open to all who profess faith in Christ and believe the basic teachings of the Christian faith. Attending the class does not obligate you to join the church.

## SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

### Hospitality

**This Week:** Emily Kerski, Rodney Veenstra

**Next Week:** Alex and Allison Bolling, Onasis and Miriam Rivas Moreno

### Nursery

**9am:** Mark Adams, Marc, Shannon, James, and Sarah Allen,

Drew and Sally Lindsay, Chris Nelms, Margaret Veenstra

**11am:** Juliet Edem, Allison Rivera, Joey and Bailey Rolland, Staci Root, Athena Selim, Stacey Stephens

**Next week's 9am:** Sifa Balagizi, Maggie Coombs, Brian and Sarah Field, Patricia Kodjo, Stephanie, Abbie, and Ellie Olsen, Andrea Romyn

**Next week's 11am:** Juliet Edem, Frank Girgenti, Aaron, Christina, Peter, and Abigail Renenger, Bethany Tinev

### Children's Church

**9am:** Shant and Annie Boyajian, Daniel and Andrea Jones

**11am:** Tom and Amanda Petelik

### AV Team

Brian Knapp, Abby McGahey, Ethan Novak, Wayne Folta

### Greeters

**9am:** Matt Coombs, Jim and Jo Ann Kottkamp, Lynn Streett

**11am:** Pierre Jolly, Becky Knapp, Chris Nelms

### Ushers

**9am:** Mark Adams, Sue Edwards, Brian Field, Alex and Heidi Gesch, Katty and Daniel Hoyle, Jonathon Osborne

**11am:** Christian and Connor Brittle, Rick Eppright

### Deacons on Duty

Aaron McCauley, Pete Olsen, Bryan Wittmeyer

## KEY EQUIPPING Adult Classes resume January 14

**During our Key Equipping time on Sunday evenings from 5-7pm, ministries are designed to equip all ages, from toddlers to seniors, to be followers and worshipers of Jesus.**

**Covenant Kids Ministry: Children 2 years old - 5th grade, Lower Level (Nursery for 1 & under)** We welcome children to learn foundational truths about God and the Gospel story. We experience what it looks like to love God and love others in community with our worship, small groups, teaching, games, fellowship, and dinner!

**PROTAS Youth Ministry: Teens 6th-12th grade, Upper Level**

Connect each week in community with your peers — the schedule includes games, worship, small group discussions, a short devotion at a teen level, and dinner.

## CORPORATE PRAYER IN 2023

**Every Sunday, 8:15am—Main Level Adult Education Room**

**Second Saturday of the month, 9am— Main Level Adult Education Room**

**Third Saturday of the month, 11am—Main Level Adult Education Room**

## WE ARE HIRING

**APC is hiring a Communications Manager.** We are currently accepting applications for our part-time Communications Manager position. The Communications Manager maintains and develops APC's communications both inside and outside the congregation through various means including website, social media, weekly emails, bulletins, and more. Experience with Adobe InDesign, Canva, and MailChimp is preferred; however training is available. The ideal candidate has an eye for aesthetics and experience with design, along with attention to detail, organizational skills, and the ability to work alongside APC staff and members of the congregation. If you desire to use those talents as a member of APC's staff, please contact Executive Director of Ministries Matt Coombs at matthew.coombs@alexandriapres.org. A full position description is also available. This position is part-time with an anticipated 25 hours/week (including Sunday activities).

APC  
Visitor Form



Give  
to APC



Inquirers  
Class



Newcomer  
Dinner



Walking  
in the Spirit



Suggest a  
Deaconess



Covenant  
Fellowship Groups



# Advent Week 1: The Song of Hope December 3, 2023

love  
joy  
peace  
& hope.

Alexandria Presbyterian Church



# Holy Worship Service

## GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

### ■ prelude

### ■ call to worship | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

*John 1:14, 16-18*

Leader: <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**All:** <sup>16</sup>**For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.**

Leader: <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**All:** <sup>18</sup>**No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.**

## GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

### ■ song of praise

#### **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cause Thy light on us to rise; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, true prophet of the Lord, and turn the key to heaven’s door; be Thou our comforter and guide, and lead us to the Father’s side. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall by His word our darkness dispel.*

O come, our great High Priest, and intercede; Thy sacrifice, our only plea. The judgment we no longer fear; Thy precious blood has brought us near. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel has banished every fear of hell.*

O Come, Thou King of nations, bring an end to all our suffering; bid every pain and sorrow cease and reign now as our Prince of Peace. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel; Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel; Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come again with us to dwell.*

*Latin antiphons, 12th cent., trans. by John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. and addt'l. words by Steve Cook and Bob Kauflin; Music VENI EMMANUEL, 13th cent. plainsong; © 2014 Sovereign Grace Praise, Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7031873*

### ■ prayer of adoration

## GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

### ■ lighting the advent candle of hope

### ■ scripture reading | *the Brown family (9am); the Erickson family (11am)*

*Jeremiah 23:5-6 (pg. 609)*

<sup>5</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

## GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

### ■ song of praise

#### **Christ Our Hope in Life and Death**

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence? That our souls to him belong.

Who holds our days within his hand? What comes, apart from his command?

And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

*O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;*

*O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess Christ, our hope in life and death.*

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good. Where is his grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer’s blood. Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial? Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Unto the grave, what will we sing? “Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!”

And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be destroyed, and we will feast in endless joy, when Christ is ours forevermore.

*Words and music by Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker, and Matt Papa; © 2020 Getty Music Hymns and Songs, Getty Music Publishing, Jordan Kauflin Music, Love Your Enemies Publishing, Matthew Merker Music, Messenger Hymns (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); CCLI Song # 7147502*

### ■ congregational prayer

### ■ offertory prayer

### ■ presentation of tithes and offerings | *Adult Choir (9am)*

#### **Lost in the Night**

Lost in the night do the people yet languish, longing for morning the darkness to vanquish, plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish. Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?

Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow? Shall those who have light no light let us borrow, giving no heed to our burden of sorrow? Will You help us soon? Will You help us soon?

Sorrowing wanderers in darkness yet dwelling, dawned has the day of a radiance excelling, death’s dreaded darkness forever dispelling: Christ is coming soon, Christ is coming soon!

*Words and music from Finnish folk song, trans. by Olav Lee; Arr. by Kyle Haugen; © 2000 Augsburg Fortress.*

*Children ages 5 through 2nd grade are now invited to continue worship in Children’s Church. Children should exit the Sanctuary using the door to the left of the stage.*

## GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

### ■ sermon scripture reading

*Luke 2:22-32 (pg. 805)*

#### **Jesus Presented at the Temple**

<sup>22</sup>And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

### ■ prayer for illumination

### ■ sermon | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

#### **“Hope Fulfilled”**

*Sermon Series: The Songs of Jesus’ Advent*

## GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS TABLE

### ■ confession of sin

**O Lord, we have been searching for peace, yet it has eluded us far too often. We have searched for it in vain, searching for it in all the wrong places, and our lives reflect it. Forgive us, we pray!**

**As You revealed to Your servant, Simeon, would you let us find our peace today in Your glorious Son, Jesus. By Your grace, may we see Him through the eyes of faith as the light of revelation to the world. Even as You prepared your own Son to come into this world to bring us true peace, we ask You to use this advent season to prepare our own hearts, to set our eyes on the coming of the Prince of Peace.**

### ■ sacrament of the lord’s supper

#### ***Explanation, Invitation, Participation***

*All baptized Christians who are members in good standing of a church that proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ are invited to participate. Children who have been admitted into the church as communicant members are invited to participate as well. If you have any questions, please ask one of our pastors or elders.*

*Members will be invited to come forward to receive the bread and the cup. You will receive the elements from the pastors and elders standing up front in your section of the Sanctuary, and then take the bread and cup back to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, raise your hand and a server will bring the elements to your seat. We will take the elements together as prompted by the pastor.*

*During the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper you are invited to sing or meditate on the following song:*

### ■ communion song

#### **The First Noel**

The first Noel, earth and heaven embraced as a virgin beheld her newborn babe. From realms on high to a manger on earth, salvation had dawned in a lowly birth.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

The Son of God, in kindness He came as a friend to the hopeless, the lost, and the lame. Our sins He bore, yet His name we despised, and the hands that brought healing were pierced as He died.

The Author of life, there lifeless He lay, as the grave cast its shadow and darkness reigned. Then out of death broke forth a great light as He rose up in victory, the glorious Christ!

Now let us all with one accord bring praises to our King:

All glory, power, and honor be forever unto Him!

*Original words and music trad. 17th cent. English; Alt. and addt’l words and music by Lacy Hudson and Marc Willerton; © 2020 Sovereign Grace Praise; Sovereign Grace Worship (Admin. by Integrity Music); CCLI Song # 7160124*

## GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

### ■ song of response

#### **King of Kings**

In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light, till from Heaven You came running; there was mercy in Your eyes.

To fulfill the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word from a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.

*Praise the Father, praise the Son; Praise the Spirit, Three in One God of glory, Majesty; Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming, and to reconcile the lost, to redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross; for even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side; knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died.

And the morning that You rose, all of heaven held its breath till that stone was moved for good, for the Lamb had conquered death.

And the dead rose from their tombs, and the angels stood in awe, for the souls of all who’d come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame;

now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint.

By His blood and in His name, in His freedom I am free

for the love of Jesus Christ, Who has resurrected me.

*Words and music by Jason Ingram, Brooke Ligertwood & Scott Ligertwood; © 2019 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol C*

### ■ dismissal

Leader: Let us go forth and serve our city and our world as those who love the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**All: We will go forth and serve our city and our world in the name of Christ.**

### ■ benediction

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